

BERLIN ALTERS ATTITUDE; WAR SHADOWS LIFT

Release of Prisoners and Relief Workers Eases Tension

ONLY DELAYS ISSUE, BELIEF IN CAPITAL

What Will Constitute Overt Act? Puzzling Question to Country

FOOD CRISIS IMPENDING

Losses of Shipping Since February 1

Losses of shipping of the Allies since February 1, when the German unrestricted submarine warfare commenced, have been as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Category, Amount. Includes 'Ships reported sunk yesterday', 'Total tonnage reported sunk yesterday', etc.

Ships Sunk Since February 1: American 2, Neutral 33, British 62, Other belligerents 7, Total ships sunk 104.

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 16.

The Berliner Tageblatt today declared negotiations between Austria and Germany over submarine warfare had broken off, according to Berlin cables.

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 16.

Release of the seventy-two American sailors held among those captured by the German sea raider and brought to port on the Yarowdale was officially announced in Berlin today. Disables received here gave no details.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.

In direct contrast to the general pessimism officially manifested over the German-American situation yesterday, there was some relief in the tension today over Germany's belated release of the seventy-two American Yarowdale prisoners and her revocation of the order ousting American relief workers in Belgium.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.

The release of the Yarowdale prisoners came in the very nick of time to stop a determined and peremptory demand to be made on the Kaiser's Government for their freedom.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.

The demand already had been prepared. It was to have gone forward today. Besides this demand the document contained a complete review of this Government's attitude toward all Germans and German property in this country, what relations regarding Germans and German property, this Government has taken since the outbreak of the war, and an explanatory statement telling Germany in friendly but firm terms every step made was taken toward the slightest regard for any question of military exigency, but wholly and unconditionally in accord with what treaties and international law demanded in the interests of the German Government.

WASHINGTON CALMER

Officials generally still are indulgent at the series of apparent insults and indignities of American rights and privileges precipitated by Germany since the break in relations, her release of the Yarowdale prisoners and change in attitude toward American relief workers had a rather quieting effect.

Some officials said these two incidents

Continued on Page Two, Column Six

Schwab's Stickpin Lost at Shore

ATLANTIC CITY, Feb. 16.—An offer of reward of \$500 and no questions asked failed to throw any light upon the whereabouts of a pearl stickpin lost several days ago by Charles M. Schwab, of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation. Mr. Schwab said to be certain the pin was in his possession when he left his hotel here in Atlantic City for the Pennsylvania station to board his private car Loretta for New York last week. The pin was missed only after he boarded the car.

Auto Hits Fire Engine

Crash between a fire engine and an automobile at Fifty-second street and Spruce avenue resulted in the automobile wrecked. Its driver, Lewis Bodt, of South Fifty-second street, was arrested on reckless driving.

Skating Information

Skating Park—Fair. Other lakes, Wissahickon Creek and Mill Creek, closed.

THE WEATHER

Philadelphia and vicinity—Partly cloudy tonight and Saturday, with slowly rising temperature; coldest tonight about thirty or thirty-two degrees; moderate, mostly southwest.

LENGTH OF DAY

5:23 a.m. 1st Moon rises, 2:54 a.m. sets, 5:36 p.m. 1st Moon sets, 11:41 a.m. sets.

DELAWARE RIVER TIDE CHANGES

CHESTNUT STREET. High water, 1:10 a.m., 1:40 p.m., 5:10 p.m., 5:40 p.m. Low water, 7:10 a.m., 7:40 a.m., 11:10 a.m., 11:40 a.m.

TEMPERATURE AT EACH HOUR

7 8 9 10 11 12 1 2 3 4 5 6

HINDENBURG PLANS ONE MORE BLOW AS HUNGER PERIL NEARS; MILLION WOMEN TO AID ARMY

People Undernourished, Grafters Rampant and Transportation Problem Serious—Empire Still Hopes for Victory—All Efforts Centered on Coming Drive

By CARL W. ACKERMAN PARIS, Feb. 16.

Germany is undernourished. Food and economic conditions throughout the country are steadily growing worse. There is endless graft in the food distribution plan. The empire's transportation problems are increasing.

But Field Marshal von Hindenburg's plans go forward just the same. The Hindenburg idea is coldly calculated on the German army alone. Under his plans the whole nation is concentrating to strengthen the army. A million women, commanded by women officers, are projected to form a vast industrial force working for the Fatherland and replacing men needed for the army.

Americans who left Berlin with Ambassador Gerard were deluged with thousands of requests for food from their supplies. One offer was ten marks (about \$2.50) for a pound of fats from the embassy stores. One German physician asked an American family to give him his pay for medical services in food—not in money.

It is jokingly remarked that there ought to be two new kinds of asylums, meaning for those persons crazy enough not to cheat in the food distribution system and for those who are insane enough in their cheating to cheat too much.

The police are powerless to stop most of this graft because it is the influential Germans who are the greatest offenders. But the graft does not stop with the influential citizens. Food dealers interchange their wares. Friends of magistrates get extra cards. Food cards are stolen.

The recent cold spell in Germany, the most freezingly bitter weather Germany has experienced in decades, destroyed large supplies. Quantities of much-prized potatoes and apples were frozen.

Transportation troubles likewise are multiplying the difficulties in the distribution of supplies. Many schools, large offices and apartments in Berlin are closed on account of lack of coal through this transportation tie-up and the frigidty of offices is paralyzing business.

HINDENBURG SEES VICTORY

Field Marshal von Hindenburg does not count the food and transportation difficulties of the people. He believes in a military victory. And he is hoping to achieve that victory this year, before it is necessary again to face the Socialists and other peace advocates.

In previous dispatches details of how the Socialists forced the Kaiser to make his peace proffer have been related. The rejection of peace terms quieted this movement. But Germany's leaders know the demand may come again.

Therefore, Germany's efforts in 1917 may be expected to exceed any heretofore made, because they will be the nation's final attempt.

WHOLE EMPIRE AT WORK

The whole empire is at work for this year's struggle. Mobilization of the women workers is but one step. The feminine army of a million will step into places of all possible civilian male workers. The women's activities will take them right up to the firing lines. Every man able to bear arms must aid in striking at the enemy when the crisis arrives.

The plan was arranged by the War Service Bureau. The women who volunteered first will be given preferential consideration in the appointment of officers. Certain women directors will be sent to headquarters on the various fronts to direct their auxiliary forces in co-operation with the military commanders.

Empress Augusta gave first evidence of this extreme step by her appearance at headquarters on the Kaiser's birthday. Important decisions were reached during her visit.

Already the civilian mobilization has reached the public schools. Students of the high schools in Grunewald, a Berlin suburb, are drilling to take the places of firemen and street cleaners, while farmers of the agricultural suburbs have pledged their sons and daughters for work during the planting and harvesting seasons.

In Berlin unnecessary labor is being dispensed with under the civilian service scheme. Engineers employed in theatres have been ordered to work in the postoffice, and numerous bank assistants have taken places as telephone operators. All these men are regarded as physically unfit for service on the firing lines or in auxiliary military departments.

CHICAGO CLOGGED BY WAR EMBARGO

Factories May Be Closed as Food and Merchandise Pile Up

PLAN APPEAL TO WILSON

CHICAGO, Feb. 16.—Chicago business men whose industries are menaced by the freight blockade are facing the most serious situation since the threatened railway strike last summer. With their inability to get their finished products or raw materials to the markets the prediction came today that unless there is immediate relief thousands of workers will be thrown out of employment.

The embargo on further shipments for export, which was decided upon by representatives of thirty railroads at Washington, virtually brought the matter to a focus here. Railroad officials and members of the Chicago Board of Trade conferred in an attempt to devise some measure for relief.

MAY APPEAL TO WILSON

Virtually the only solution offered was the move to urge President Wilson either to allow merchant vessels to sail themselves or to furnish convoys.

Grain shipments to the East from Chicago are at a standstill and domestic freight stagnation is becoming pronounced. Millions of dollars' worth of freight is lying in warehouses here awaiting cars. In Detroit \$10,000,000 worth of new automobiles are awaiting shipment. One hundred miles are waiting transportation, passed through Chicago today.

WHEAT PILES UP

Grain elevators here contain 30,000,000 bushels of wheat waiting shipment, while an additional 7,000,000 bushels is tied up in loaded cars in the yards. A considerable part of the grain held here is for domestic consumption in the East.

Several more embargoes were declared by western roads today. The Texas and Pacific put up the bars on grain to New Orleans; the Santa Fe, the "Katy" and Burlington, on perishables, to east of Illinois.

The probability of thousands of workers being thrown out of employment within a few days has aroused city officials and associations of commerce. Manufacturers and other employers will meet today with railroads.

Continued on Page Fifteen, Column Three

ALEX SEES BAKER; IS READY TO SIGN

Phils' Twirler Confers With President and Amicable Understanding Results

ASKED PITCHER TO CALL

It is likely that Grover Cleveland Alexander will sign to pitch for the Phillies within a few days. The greatest obstacle to a peaceful settlement between the club and the mound star was hurdled this morning, when the pitcher was summoned to the club offices for a conference, which lasted more than an hour. Although no contract was signed the breach between the two men narrowed and they held a friendly discussion on the matter of terms.

There is slight chance that the matter of salary will hold up the deal. Although Alex asks \$15,000 per annum for his services, which is some few thousands of dollars more than President Baker thinks he is worth, there never was much doubt of a compromise being reached, provided the two men met in a friendly spirit and on a business basis. President Baker issued an arbitrary statement in New York on Wednesday that the breach between the men assumed serious proportions. When asked if his journey to Philadelphia was for the purpose of conferring with the pitcher, Baker replied: "I am not going after Alexander. He knows the way to the offices of the club if he wants to see me. I will see him if he wants to see me, but I am not making the trip for the purpose of talking with him."

It was this attitude which kept Alex away from the club offices yesterday, while President Baker waited in vain for him to put in an appearance. It looked like a deadlock until the pitcher was summoned to the office early this morning for a discussion of terms, and although an agreement was not reached, friendly relations between the owner and the player were resumed.

It is said that Baker repudiated the statement he gave out in New York and which so aroused Alex's ire.

TWO DIE IN TUNNEL BLAST

Explosion in California Also Injures Six Others

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Feb. 16.—Two men are dead, two are believed to be dying and four others are seriously injured, as a result of the explosion of a delayed blast in Twin Peaks tunnel here last night.

Twenty-four blasts had been set off in rapid succession. Two workmen, waiting behind a protection hammock, heard only twenty-three shots. They waited ten minutes for the twenty-fourth, which exploded as they stooped over it.

NEW OUTRAGES CAUSE FEAR ON MEXICO BORDER

Ranchers Aroused as Cowboys Ride to Avenge Deaths

THREE PUT TO DEATH AFTER RAID ON RANCH

U. S. Cavalry Joins Pursuit of Outlaws—Villa Chief Threatens

SALAZAR ON WARPATH



Mexican bandit leader, who is reported to have threatened to raid an American city or town and kill all the American men he finds there.

COLUMBUS, N. M., Feb. 16.—The whole border was aflame with excitement today. Fearing new outrages by Mexican bandits reported encamped only a short distance south of the international boundary, ranchers were summoning cowboy reinforcements. More troops were ordered into the Hachita country, where the bodies of three Mormon cowboys put to death by bandit raiders were found, and unusual activity was displayed at army headquarters here.

It was stated early today that no orders had yet been received for American troops to cross the border in pursuit of the Miranda bandits who, killed Andrew P. Peterson, Hugh A. Ford and Burton Jensen, but that cavalry detachments sent into the "corner ranch" region last night probably would cross if they should pick up a hot trail.

No word has been received from the fifty cowboys who rode southward through the "corner ranch" yesterday morning to avenge the death of the three Mormons.

WILL SHOW NO MERCY

They were heavily armed and are believed to have crossed the border bent on annihilating the bandits responsible for the Hachita outrage.

Whether bandits sighted on the Mexican side southwest of Columbus are part of the Villista forces of General Salazar was not known to military authorities here today. Army fliers took the air several days ago when Salazar's activities were reported to headquarters, but it is reported, found no trace of his forces. Salazar's reported threat to raid border towns and ranches is causing no great uneasiness here, because sufficient troops are in this locality to repel raiders. Ranchers, however, fear attacks by small parties of bandits at isolated points.

TO BRING BACK BODIES

With the recollection of the Columbus raid fresh in their minds, appropriate arrangements today are being made to make the grief of the families of the Mormons killed near Hachita their own. Arrangements are being made to bring back the bodies of the slain.

Continued on Page Two, Column Seven

POSTAL RATE CHANGES DEFEATED BY SENATE

Move to Boost Second-Class Mail and Make Letters Cent Falls

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—The Senate this afternoon finally killed and buried the proposal to raise second-class mail rates to two cents a pound and reduce letter postage to one cent.

By a vote of 45 to 25 the Senate again upheld a point of order by Senator Hitchcock against making the provision and an amendment to postoffice appropriation bill, Senator Bankhead, chairman of the postoffice committee, made a last effort to increase second-class rates on a zone basis. Senator Smith, of Georgia, offered a similar amendment. Both were knocked out by Senator Lodge's point of order.

CITY AWARDS CONTRACTS

Frankford Creek Sewer and Highway Improvements in Projects

A contract for the construction of a portion of the Frankford Creek intercepting sewer, in Wheatland lane, between Sepviva and Amber streets, was awarded by Director Dutesman, of the Department of Public Works, today to the Whiting-Turner Construction Company for \$75,000.

The director also awarded contracts for a number of grading projects, the money for which will come out of loan funds. Included in the awards were: Grading and macadamizing Church lane, between Janselin pike and Twentieth street, to J. Joseph McHugh for \$250.

Johnston street, from Seventeenth to Eighteenth street, and Eighteenth street, from Oregon avenue to Johnston street, to Edwin H. Vane, for \$950.

Park avenue and Thirteenth street, from Olney to Grange street, to Thomas Connor for \$150.

QUICK NEWS

DRAFTS BILL TO SEIZE ALL DISTILLERIES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—Representative Randall, of California, is drafting a bill giving the President or Secretary of War power to take over all distilleries and to regulate all saloons in time of war. He will introduce the measure at the first sign of real trouble with Germany, he declared today.

U. S. TROOPS TRAP MEXICAN RAIDERS

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Feb. 16.—American troops have cut off the escape of a band of Mexicans who crossed the Rio Grande south of Zapata, Texas, Wednesday night and attacked infantrymen of the Second Florida Regiment. General Parker reported to General Canjion today. The capture of the bandits is expected hourly, he said.

GERMANY MAKES SULTAN BIG WAR LOAN

LONDON, Feb. 16.—Germany has made a new war loan of 12,500,000 Turkish pounds to Turkey, a Reuter dispatch from Amsterdam today says. Before the war a Turkish pound was worth \$4.39 in American money.

TEXAS OIL COMPANY BOOSTS CRUDE PRODUCT 10 CENTS

HOUSTON, Tex., Feb. 16.—An advance of 10 cents a barrel in the price for Crichon crude oil to \$1.40 has been put into effect by the Texas Company.

NAVAL RECRUITING POST OPENED IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—That the nation's Capital may serve as a patriotic example for the country in furnishing recruits for the country, Secretary Daniels today opened a downtown recruiting office here. This is one of the first moves in a country-wide campaign to obtain recruits to fill the quotas of enlisted men necessary to man Uncle Sam's fleet fully.

WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE SUPPORTS GOVERNMENT

MADISON, Wis., Feb. 16.—The Wisconsin Legislature today went on record with a resolution expressing its loyalty to the Government when the Assembly passed the Senate amendment to the Nordman resolution. The Senate amendment declares "implicit confidence" in any act the Government may take during the present international crisis, but does not mention President Wilson. The resolution was passed, 54 to 18, after a spirited debate. A big fight had been made to prevent any action.

WILSON NAMES MONGOLIAN TO JUDGESHIP

HONOLULU, Feb. 16.—For the first time in the history of the American Government a Mongolian has been elevated to a judgeship. William H. Heen, son of a Chinese father and a Hawaiian mother, has been appointed to the Circuit Court bench by President Wilson. Heen is a graduate of American law schools and practiced law for some time in Shanghai.

NATIONAL FORESTS ESCAPED SERIOUS FIRES IN 1916

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—The smallest loss ever inflicted by fires in the national forests was reported during 1916, according to a report published by the Department of Agriculture today. A total of 99,337 acres of Government land was burned over with a loss of \$162,355 in timber. Most of these fires were outside the regions where most severe fires have occurred in the past.

LOOK OUT FOR FROZEN ORANGES FROM "SUNNY SOUTH"

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—Freezing weather in the South today caused special orders by the Department of Agriculture to its inspectors to watch for frozen oranges, which, it is feared, will be shipped to markets in large quantities.

RICH BUSINESS WOMAN MARRIES HER CHAUFFEUR

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Feb. 16.—Miss Margaret Judge, 51, who accumulated a million dollars by her business skill, is the bride of Joseph Hutchinson, 29, her chauffeur. The announcement was made today that they were married secretly Monday.

FLOOD OF APPLICATIONS FOR NEW BRITISH WAR LOAN

LONDON, Feb. 16.—The latest British war loan, subscriptions to which closed today, was a huge success. It was stated in official circles. Leading banks have been swamped with applications for participation in the "loan of victory," as it is called. The demand exceeded expectations, and bankers are now revising their estimates of the probable total.

CIVIL WAR VETERANS ASKED TO GET ARMY RECRUITS

CHICAGO, Feb. 16.—Veterans of the Civil War were "called to the colors" again today. From army recruiting headquarters here was issued an appeal to the members of the Grand Army of the Republic posts in Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan to don their uniforms of blue and go after recruits for the service. Each Grand Army of the Republic post is asked to ask as a recruiting substitution, with a veteran in charge.

AUSTRIAN EMPEROR ASSUMES SUPREME COMMAND

LONDON, Feb. 16.—A Vienna dispatch to Reuters, by way of Amsterdam, says that Emperor Charles of Austria has written a letter to Field Marshal Archduke Frederick, placing him second in command of the Austro-Hungarian army. The Archduke was previously commander-in-chief, but the Emperor has taken over the supreme command and now is staying at main headquarters. The Austrian Emperor has appointed the German Emperor grand admiral of the Austro-Hungarian navy.

PENROSE URGES PROBE TO THWART M'CORMICK

Senator Penrose has characterized the Brumbaugh probe as a "housecleaning necessary to thwart plans of Vance C. McCormick to occupy the gubernatorial chair." Repudiation of the present State administration is necessary, the Senator explained, in order to elect a Republican Governor next year. Penrose gave this opinion in Washington after a conference with Senator McNichol, who is on his way South.

SMALL PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR LOAN BANKS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—Public subscription to the stock of the twelve Federal farm loan banks took up only 26,000 shares of a value of \$130,000, and the Government will supply the remaining \$8,870,000. The Farm Loan Board in announcing the figures made it clear that public subscription had not been thought desirable, in view of the fact that the stock is redeemable at par, and that within a year or so at most the banks would buy back the stock from its original holdings.

17,000,000 TO PRAY FOR WILSON NEXT SUNDAY

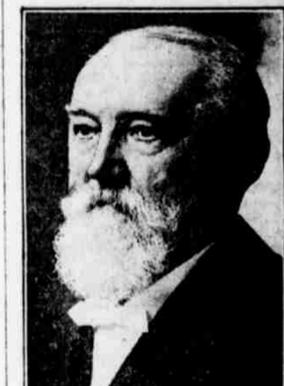
More than 17,000,000 church members will pray for President Wilson and ask that Divine wisdom direct his acts in the present crisis, next Sunday, the national day of prayer. It will be observed by 40,000 congregations. The call was issued by the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.

EX-MAYOR WANTS TWINING OUSTED

Blankenburg - Would Put Merritt Taylor on Job, Saying "Go to It"

REGRETS PORT CONDITIONS

Points Out Failure of Development Plans—Expects to Be Mayor Again



RUDOLPH BLANKENBURG

Former Mayor is seventy-four years old today. He is observing the anniversary at his home, 214 West Logan Square.

By M'LISS

Ex-Mayor Rudolph Blankenburg, looking like a Franz Hals portrait, the snowy whiteness of his beard contrasting picturesquely with the rich black velvet house coat that he wore, said today that he felt as vigorous mentally on this, his seventy-fourth birthday, as he did twenty years ago and that were it not for a slight weakness left by his recent attack of the grip, physically he would be the equal of any man.

To demonstrate his words, he attacked the transit problem with great vigor. "The solution of it lies with the Mayor," he said emphatically. "Twining has shown himself incapable of handling the situation. What is Mayor ought to do—what I would do if I were Mayor and Twining were Transit Director—is to send for former Director Taylor and say to him: 'See here, you say you can put through the transit plan at about \$10,000,000 cheaper than your successor. I know that if you say you can do a thing, you can. Go ahead and do it.' It would then be up to Twining to resign. This controversy is the most interesting one before the people today and its solution is as easy as that."

The former Mayor also expressed his annoyance at the halt in the port development. "Philadelphia has the possibilities for becoming the finest port in the world. It has more advantage than New York, certainly. We are more centrally located, nearer to the West, our freight rates are lower, our railroad facilities better and we have no lighterage."

"If my administration had continued, the development of the port would be farther along the way than it is now. Of course, these things are not done in a day, and Webster is doing the best he can, but he can't do much because he hasn't the money. Money is being wasted in the city of Philadelphia today that ought to be going for the development of our shipping facilities."

Mr. Blankenburg was in optimistic mood and said that he expected to be Mayor again. "Perhaps when I am eighty or eighty-two," he said.

He then took a shot at Governor Brumbaugh, expressing amazement that he could have been so much in the character of a man for whom he voted two years ago, and who, instead of being the Governor of the State of Pennsylvania, had proved himself to be merely the Governor of one of its official factions.

"Let there be light," he said, in regard to the probe.

AMERICAN LINER BRAVES PERIL OF SUBMARINES

Steamship Philadelphia, With 95 Passengers, Sails From Liverpool for New York

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—Word was received here today that the American liner Philadelphia sailed from Liverpool for New York on Wednesday. This was the second passenger ship of American ownership to leave Liverpool since Germany's ruthless submarine war was inaugurated on February 1. Of the ninety-five passengers on the Philadelphia thirty-eight are Americans. Several of the Americans cancelled their passage at the last moment. The Philadelphia is unarmed.

The first American passenger ship to leave Liverpool after the New York boat was declared was the New York. She sailed on February 3 with 231 passengers and raced safely through the submarine zone.

The Anchor liner Tuscania sailed from New York today for Glasgow. She carried a general cargo and a number of passengers. The Tuscania is owned by the same line which owned the torpedoed liner California.

LEAK INQUIRY CONCLUDED

House Probers Will Now Prepare Report to Congress

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—The congressional investigation into the "leak" has come to an unexpected close. Sherman L. Whipple, counsel to the committee, and three of the members closed up the examination of brokerage house books this afternoon and will leave for Washington tonight to prepare a report to Congress.

Members of the committee would not hazard a guess as to when the report would be made, or what it would contain. They likewise declined to state what action would be taken on the testimony of the witnesses.